

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 858 - SB 889

March 23, 2009

SUMMARY OF BILL: Removes the requirement that each county election commission must conduct mandatory random hand count audits of at least three percent of the votes cast in an election.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Local Expenditures - Cost Avoidance/\$490,400/Every Two Years

Assumptions:

- The Tennessee Voter Confidence Act of 2007 (Public Chapter 1108) required each county election commission to conduct mandatory hand count audits of the voter-verified paper ballots to include three percent of the votes cast prior to the election and at least three percent of the precincts. There would be cost avoidance to the counties due to the elimination of this requirement.
- According to the Coordinator of Elections, the cost avoidance to local government with the elimination of this requirement from the Act is estimated to be \$490,393. This estimate is based on a survey that was conducted by the Coordinator's office to ascertain the financial impact to local government for the hand count audit required under the Tennessee Voter Confidence Act. The survey was based on a 2010 election cycle which occurs every two years. This estimate represents the county savings calculated by 82 of the 95 counties in Tennessee.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White".

James W. White, Executive Director

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